



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

May 17, 2005

**RE:    *UNITED STATES v. ALVIN OZORIA, et al.***

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that earlier this afternoon, the seven men listed below all entered guilty pleas before Senior District Judge John T. Elfvin to conspiring to obtain cocaine from New York City and then distributing that cocaine in the Buffalo area.

Anthony Berrios 847 Niagara St. Buffalo, NY	(More than five (5) kilograms of cocaine, 10 years to life)
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Alvin Ozoria Niagara Co. Jail Lockport, NY	(15-50 kilograms of cocaine, 10 years to life)
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James Rivera, Sr. 140 Parkside Buffalo, NY	(More than 500 grams of cocaine, 5-40 years)
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Carlos Rodriguez	(More than 500 grams of cocaine, 5-40 years)
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Edgar Rodriguez 400 Busti Avenue	(More than five (5) kilograms of cocaine, 10 years to life)
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Buffalo, NY

Martin Santiago      (More than 500 grams of cocaine, 5-40 years)

James River, Jr.      (170 grams of cocaine, up to 20 years)  
Niagara Co. Jail  
Lockport, NY

In addition, defendant Carlos Rodriguez entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with receiving a firearm (a shotgun) while under indictment in this case (18 U.S.C. § 922(n)), which carries a maximum term of five (5) years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The cocaine distribution conspiracy charges were based on a joint State Police-Federal Bureau of Investigation investigation that commenced in 1999 and ended with the arrest of these defendants and six (6) other co-defendants in May of 2001, and was based on Court-authorized wiretaps of several phones used by the conspirators. Three other co-defendants had previously pled guilty, three more will be going to trial in front of Judge Elfvin in the near future, and another defendant, Frank Alvarez, remains a fugitive and is in the Dominican Republic, where he is the subject of an active extradition request.

The investigation disclosed that Ozoria who, at the time of his arrest, was a New York City resident was supplying cocaine to several of the other conspirators for distribution in the Buffalo area.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony M. Bruce.

